

Rebuilding Afghanistan

Weekly Activity Update for December 14 - 27 • Issue 71

Program Goals

- Support the Bonn process: the Constitutional, Human Rights and Judicial Commissions; the 2004 elections; and a free and independent media.
- Strengthen government budgeting, revenue generation (e.g., customs), monetary management, private-sector related legal and regulatory frameworks, and promote private enterprises.
- Build capacity to carry out other legitimate government functions and support reconstruction of health, judicial, education, economic, agricultural and transportation infrastructure.

Irrigation Projects Strengthen Agricultural Sector

Water and irrigation projects strengthen Afghanistan's critical agricultural sector. To date, 329 km of canals have been rehabilitated and 233 irrigation structures have been reconstructed, affecting 310,500 hectares.

Five of these projects are sizeable, both in scope and in quantity of beneficiaries, irrigating roughly 101,800 hectares and benefiting more than 41,000 households. Three of these--the Sardeh Irrigation System, Zana Khan Dam, and Mohammad Agha and Moghul Khil Intakes--were completed in fall 2004. The Sar-e Haus Dam (below) is the largest dam in Northwest Afghanistan, benefiting an estimated 600,000 people. Emergency repairs to the dam were completed in 2003; remaining reconstruction will be completed by March 2005. The Shah Rawan Intake (bottom right) is scheduled for completion in spring 2005.



Distribution of emergency wheat seed and fertilizers as part of the Alternative Livelihoods Program in Nangarhar Province.

Emergency Wheat Seed Distributed in Nangarhar

Rebuilding Agricultural Markets Program (RAMP), in collaboration with USDA's Food for Progress Program and the Provincial Reconstruction Team in Jalalabad, provincial government and NGOs recently distributed 500 tons of wheat seed and 1,500 tons of fertilizer. In support of the Alternative Livelihoods Program, this supply allows planting of approximately 4,000 hectares to wheat instead of poppy and benefits an estimated 19,500 farmers. To ensure that farmers are able to plant the wheat before the planting season ends in late December, the seed was distributed in a record eight days. RAMP will also provide extension material to farmers and will monitor and evaluate progress throughout the growing season.



Sar-e Haus Dam reconstruction, Faryab Province



Shah Rawan Intake reconstruction, Kunduz Province

Rural Health Program Highlights

In response to the high needs in rural areas, the Rural Expansion of Afghanistan's Community-based Healthcare (REACH) targets rural communities, focusing activities on primary health care and on the health needs of women and children. To date, REACH has trained 5,454 health care workers, including community health workers, physicians, nurses and midwives. In addition, the program has distributed \$981,500 in pharmaceuticals and commodities since September 2003.

REACH Program December Highlights:

- On December 17th, the Ministry of Health (MOH) conducted certification examinations for approximately 100 nurses and midwives. The examinations mark the first of the certification activities of the MOH, assisted by REACH.
- Forty-six doctors, nurses, midwives, and lab technicians completed a REACH course on applying infection prevention practices throughout their hospitals.



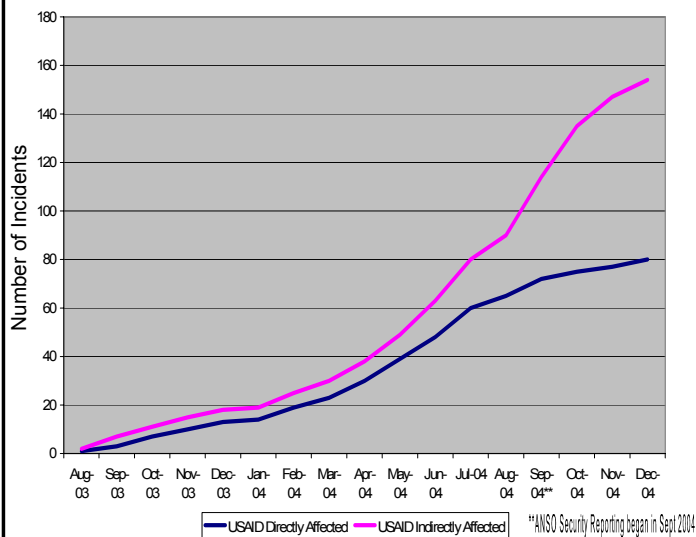
A midwife receives training as part of the REACH program.

Security Incidents

Note: Hostile attacks are reported through USAID's security contractors and the Associated Press

- **Number of Hostile Attacks:** From December 14-December 27, one hostile attack occurred. No injuries or fatalities were reporting during this period.
- **USAID Related:** The attack this reporting period was against Afghans assisting a USAID program.
- **Latest Attack:** On December 21st at 16:10, four Afghan Helmand-Arghandab Valley Authority (HAVA) employees were abducted while driving near their project site. The Afghans were assisting with Alternative Livelihood Programs in the Lashkar Gah district in Helmand Province. They were released shortly thereafter and contacted the police upon arrival at a nearby town.

Cumulative Hostile Attacks Against Aid Programs



Hostile Attacks by Month

